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(57) Abstract

A process and intermediates for preparing 1-substituted-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amines. The process involves reacting a 1-substituted-IH-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-5N-oxide with an isocyanate and hydrolysing the product thereof. Also, a process for preparing the intermediates is disclosed.

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PROCESS FOR IMIDAZO[4,5-c]QUINOLIN-4-AMINES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

This invention relates to processes and intermediates for preparing 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]-quinolines. In another aspect this invention relates to processes and intermediates for preparing
10 1-substituted-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amines.

Description of the Related Art

afford the α -anilino derivative.

The synthesis of 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amines has been described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,689,338 (Gerster) and 4,929,624 (Gerster et al.). The methods described therein involve the step of heating the 4-chloro compound in the presence of ammonium hydroxide or ammonia under pressure (e.g., in a sealed reactor) to afford the 4-amino compound.

The reaction of phenyl isocyanate with heteroaromatic 6-membered ring N-oxides has been reported in "Organic Chemistry: A series of Monographs, Chemistry of the Heterocyclic N-oxides."

A. R. Katritsky and J. Lagowski. Alfred T. Bloomquist, 25 Ed., Academic Press, 1971. The reaction is said to

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides a process for 30 preparing a 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amine, comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing a 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline5N-oxide having no functional groups other than the5N-oxide that are reactive to organic isocyanates;
- (ii) reacting the 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline 5N-oxide from step (i) with an organic isocyanate of the formula R_i-X-NCO, wherein R_i is an organic group substantially inert to quinoline N-oxides and X is a

hydrolytically active functional group, to afford a 1H-imidazo[4,5-c] quinoline having a 4-substituent of the formula $R_i-X-NH-$;

This invention also provides a process for 10 preparing a compound of Formula I

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20 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about 25 ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing 30 one to about four carbon atoms; straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group 35 consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four

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carbon atoms; hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to about four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl 5 wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy, and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl) ethyl; and phenyl; said benzyl, (phenyl) ethyl or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on 10 the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen, with the proviso that when said benzene ring is substituted by two of said 15 moieties, then the moieties together contain no more than six carbon atoms;

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; 20 (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; the benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and

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wherein R, and Rb are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, phenyl, and substituted phenyl wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen; and Z is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy containing one to about four carbon atoms, alkylamido wherein the alkyl group contains one to about four

carbon atoms, amino, substituted amino wherein the substituent is alkyl or hydroxyalkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, azido, chloro, hydroxy, 1-morpholino, 1-pyrrolidino, and thioalkyl of one to about four carbon atoms;

R is selected from the group consisting of lower alkoxy, halogen, and lower alkyl; and n is zero or one; or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, which process comprises the steps of:

(i) providing a compound of Formula II

15

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20 wherein R, n, and R_2 are as defined above with the proviso that Z in R_2 is other than amino, substituted amino, or hydroxy, and R_5 is selected from the group consisting of: straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms and 25 substituted straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon 30 atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about 35 ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted

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by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to about four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon 5 atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or aroyloxy, and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being 10 optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen, with the proviso that when said benzene ring is 15 substituted by two of said moieties, then the moieties together contain no more than six carbon atoms;

(ii) reacting the compound of Formula II with an isocyanate of the formula R_i -X-NCO, wherein X is a hydrolytically active functional group and R_i is an organic group substantially inert to quinoline N-oxides to afford an intermediate of Formula III

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R_1 - X - HN \\
\hline
N \\
R_2 \\
\hline
R_5
\end{array}$$
III

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wherein X, R_i , R, R_2 , R_5 , and n are as defined above with the proviso that Z in R_2 is other than amino, substituted amino, or hydroxy;

35 (iii) hydrolysing the product of step (ii) to provide a compound of Formula I;

(iv) optionally converting or further elaborating the group Z in R2; and

(v) isolating the compound of Formula I from step (iv) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

This invention also provides intermediate compounds of Formula III above and a process for preparing such intermediates.

The processes of this invention allow an N-oxide of Formula II to be aminated directly without chlorination and subsequent use of the high pressure conditions used in previous syntheses of imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amines.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

For the purpose of the instant specification and claims, the term "lower" when used in connection with "alkyl" or "alkoxy" designates straight chain or branched chain groups containing one to about four carbon atoms.

The process of this invention is illustrated 20 in the Reaction Scheme below, wherein X, R_i , R_i , R_i , R_i , R_i , and R_i are as defined above.

REACTION SCHEME

The Reaction Scheme begins with a 4-hydroxyquinoline of Formula IV. Many 4-hydroxyquinolines of Formula IV are commercially available. The others are known and/or can be prepared readily by those skilled in the art. 5 Step 1 involves nitration of a 4-hydroxyquinoline to provide a 3-nitro-4-hydroxyquinoline of Formula V. Conventional conditions for such reactions are well Preferred conditions in the instance where n is zero, which afford a product of Formula V in superior 10 yield compared with conditions used in the prior art, involve heating at about 125°C-130°C in propionic acid in the presence of nitric acid. Preferred conditions in other instances will depend upon the particular 4-hydroxyquinoline used in step 1, and those skilled in 15 the art will be able to select suitable conditions. In step 2, a 3-nitro-4-hydroxyquinoline is chlorinated at the 4-position to provide a 3-nitro-4chloroquinoline of Formula VI. Some compounds of Formula VI are known and disclosed, e.g., in U.S. Pat.

20 No. 3,700,674 (Diehl et al.) and references cited therein, and U.S. Pat. No. 4,689,338 (Gerster), both patents. The others can be prepared as shown in step 2. Step 2 can be carried out by reacting a compound of Formula V in an inert solvent (e.g., methylene

chloride) with a chlorinating agent (e.g., phosphorus oxychloride). Preferred conditions involve chlorination in methylene chloride with a Vilsmeier reagent prepared from thionyl chloride and N,N-dimethylformamide. In such a reaction, the

30 compound of Formula V is suspended in methylene chloride, and a slight molar excess of thionyl chloride and N,N-dimethylformamide is added to the suspension. Heating to reflux facilitates the chlorination.

Step 3 involves reacting a compound of Formula VI in an inert solvent with an amine of the formula R_1NH_2 to provide a compound of Formula VII. Some compounds of Formula VII are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,689,338 (Gerster). The others can be

prepared as shown in step 3. The reaction of step 3 is preferably carried out in the presence of a tertiary amine catalyst (such as triethylamine), and it is preferred to run the reaction without isolation of the 5 chloro compound from step 2.

Step 4 involves several reactions including:

(i) reduction of the nitro group of the compound of
Formula VII, and (ii) reaction of the resulting 3-amino
compound with a carboxylic acid or an equivalent

10 thereof in order to provide a cyclized
imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline.

The reduction in step (4) is preferably carried out using a conventional heterogeneous hydrogenation catalyst such as platinum on carbon. The reduction can be carried out conveniently on a Paar apparatus in an inert solvent such as toluene, ethyl acetate, or a lower alkanol.

In part (ii) of step 4, a 3-amino compound is reacted with (a) a 1,1-dialkoxyalkyl alkanoate such as diethoxymethyl acetate, or (b) a carboxylic acid that will introduce the desired R₂ group, or (c) a trialkyl ortho ester of the formula R₂C(Oalkyl)₃, wherein "alkyl" is an alkyl group containing one to about four carbon atoms, or (d) a combination of such a carboxylic acid with such a trialkyl ortho ester to provide an imidazo[4,5-c]-quinoline. The reaction can be carried out by heating, e.g., at about 130°C, in the presence of an acid, preferably an alkanoic acid having one more carbon atom than R₂.

involves a reaction similar to that described above but involving formic acid or a trialkylorthoformate to form a 2-hydrogen substituted intermediate 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline. This compound is then deprotonated at the 2-position by a strong base (e.g., an alkyllithium such as n-butyllithium) and reacted with a compound of the formula



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In instances wherein a primary or secondary hydroxyl group is present in the cyclized compound, part (ii) of step 4 also involves protecting the hydroxyl group with a removable protecting group such as an alkanoyloxy group (e.g., acetoxy) or an aroyloxy group (e.g., benzoyloxy). The protecting group can later be removed as appropriate when it will no longer interfere with subsequent reactions. Suitable protecting groups and reactions for their placement and removal are well known to those skilled in the art. See, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,689,338 (Gerster), Examples 115-123.

Part (iii) of step (4) provides an intermediate of Formula II. The quinoline nitrogen is oxidized with a conventional oxidizing agent that is capable of forming N-oxides. Preferred oxidizing agents include peroxyacids (such as peroxyacetic acid) and hydrogen peroxide. Preferred conditions involve mild heating (e.g., at about 50°C-60°C) in an ethanolic solution of peroxyacetic acid.

U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,689,338 and 4,698,348 (Gerster). The others can be prepared as described in connection with step 4 herein.

A 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amine is prepared in step (5) of the Reaction Scheme. Step (5) involves: (a) reacting a compound of Formula II with an isocyanate to afford an intermediate of Formula III; (b) hydrolysing the intermediate; (c) optionally converting or further elaborating the group Z in R₂; and (d) isolating the compound of Formula I from step (d) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

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Part (a) of step (5) involves reacting an N-oxide with an isocyanate wherein the isocyanato group is bonded to a hydrolytically active functional group. The term "hydrolytically active functional group" as 5 used herein designates any functional group that is capable of being subjected to a nucleophilic displacement reaction in step (5)(b) of the Reaction Exemplary hydrolytically active functional groups include carbonyl 0

10 (-C-).

A particular class of such isocyanates is isocyanates 15 of the formula R-X-NCO, wherein R is an organic group substantially inert to quinoline N-oxides under the conditions of step (5)(a) and X is a hydrolytically active functional group. Suitable R groups are easily selected by those skilled in the art. Preferred groups 20 R; include alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, and combinations thereof. Particular preferred isocyanates include aroyl isocyanates such as benzoylisocyanate. reaction of the isocyanate with the N-oxide is carried out under substantially anhydrous conditions by adding 25 the isocyanate to a solution of the N-oxide in an inert solvent such as dichloromethane. The resulting 4-substituted compound of Formula III can be isolated by removal of the solvent.

Step (5)(b) of the Reaction Scheme involves 30 hydrolysis of a compound of Formula III. "hydrolysis" as used herein designates not only nucleophilic displacement with water but also displacement with other nucleophilic compounds. reaction can be carried out by general methods well 35 known to those skilled in the art, e.g., by heating in the presence of a nucleophilic solvent such as water or a lower alkanol optionally in the presence of a catalyst such as an alkali metal hydroxide or lower alkoxide.

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In instances wherein there are hydroxyl protecting groups present in the compound of Formula III, they too can be removed in step (5)(b). hydroxyl-containing compound of Formula I can be 5 converted or further elaborated by methods well known to those skilled in the art to afford a further compound of Formula I. For example, reaction with thionyl chloride will provide a compound of Formula I Reaction of this compound with a wherein Z is chloro. 10 nucleophile such as sodium azide, pyrrolidine, methanethiol, or morpholine will afford a compound of Formula I wherein Z is azido, 1-pyrrolidino, thiomethyl, or 1-morpholino, respectively. Reduction of an azido compound provides a compound of Formula I 15 wherein Z is amino. Such an amino compound can be acylated to form a compound wherein Z is alkylamido.

Some compounds of Formula I can be prepared by a similar reaction scheme wherein the final desired group Z is introduced directly in step (4) and carried 20 on through the process of the invention.

The product compound of Formula I can be isolated by the conventional means disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,689,338 (Gerster), such as, for example, removal of the solvent and recrystallization from an 25 appropriate solvent (e.g., N,N-dimethylformamide) or solvent mixture, or by dissolution in an appropriate solvent (e.g., methanol) and re-precipitation by addition of a second solvent in which the compound is insoluble.

The compounds of Formula I can be used in the form of acid addition salts such as hydrochlorides, dihydrogen sulfates, trihydrogen phosphates, hydrogen nitrates, methane sulfonates and salts of other pharmaceutically acceptable acids. Pharmaceutically 35 acceptable acid-addition salts of compounds of Formula I are generally prepared by reaction of the respective compound with an equimolar amount of a relatively strong acid, preferably an inorganic acid such as

hydrochloric, sulfuric or phosphoric acid or an organic acid such as methanesulfonic acid in a polar solvent.

Isolation of the salt is facilitated by the addition of a solvent in which the salt is insoluble (e.g., diethyl ether).

Some of the 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amines prepared by the process of this invention are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,689,338 (Gerster) and 4,929,624 (Gerster et al.) as antiviral agents. The process as described above is illustrated in Example 1 below for the synthesis of 1-(2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amine. The exemplified process affords the final product in a 40% overall yield from 4-hydroxyquinoline.

In the following Examples, all reactions were run with stirring under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen unless otherwise indicated. The particular materials and amounts thereof recited in the Example, as well as other conditions and details, should not be construed to unduly limit the invention.

EXAMPLE 1

1-(2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amine

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Part A

4-Hydroxyquinoline (26.2 g, 0.18 mol) was added to propionic acid (250 mL) and the solution was heated to about 125°C. Nitric acid (16.0 mL of a 70 percent aqueous solution, 0.36 mol) was added dropwise with stirring. When the addition was complete, the mixture was stirred at about 125°C for 10 minutes, then allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was diluted with ethanol. The precipitated solid was filtered, washed sequentially with ethanol, water, and ethanol, and dried to afford 3-nitro-4-hydroxyquinoline (27.7 g, 86%) as a light yellow powder.

Part B

The compound 3-nitro-4-hydroxyquinoline (19.0 g, 0.10 mol) was suspended in dichloromethane (200 mL). Thionyl chloride (8.1 mL, 0.11 mol) and 5 N,N-dimethylformamide (8.5 mL, 0.11 mol) were added. The reaction mixture was then heated for 3.5 hours at reflux, during which time a small amount of solid precipitated. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -15°C and a solution of isobutylamine (15.1 mL, 0.15 10 mol), and triethylamine (20.9 mL, 0.15 mol) in dichloromethane (100 mL) was added in a slow stream with vigorous swirling. During the addition the temperature of the reaction mixture rose to 20°C. resulting solution was heated at reflux for 30 minutes, 15 cooled, and the solvent was removed at reduced pressure to afford a yellow solid product. The product was slurried in water, filtered, washed with water, and dried partially. The partially dried product was then slurried in ethanol (75 mL), filtered, washed 20 successively with a small amount of ethanol and a small amount of diethyl ether, and dried at reduced pressure to afford a yellow crystalline solid product. A second crop of product was obtained by evaporating the ethanol filtrate. The total amount of N-(2-methylpropyl)-25 3-nitro-4-quinolinamine was 23.3 g.

Part C

N-(2-methylpropyl)-3-nitro-4-quinolinamine
(61.3 g, 0.25 mol) was placed in a Paar apparatus along
with 5% Pt/C (1.5 g), magnesium sulfate (60 g), ethyl
acetate (750 mL), and formic acid (400 mL). The
mixture was placed under a hydrogen atmosphere (about
50 psi) and hydrogenated. The catalyst was removed by
filtration and the solvent was evaporated to afford the
crude product. The crude product was dissolved in 98%
formic acid (400 mL) and refluxed for 1 hour. The
resulting solution was evaporated to dryness and the
resulting solid was dissolved in ethanol (400 mL).

Peroxyacetic acid (63 mL of an acetic acid solution containing 32% peroxyacetic acid based on the total weight of the solution, 0.3 mol) was added and the solution was heated at 56°C for about 0.5 hour. The 5 solution was then cooled and the solvents were removed at reduced pressure. The residue was then co-evaporated with heptane (3x300 mL) to afford a solid with spectral properties identical to those of an authentic sample of 1-(2-methylpropyl)imidazo[4,5-c]-10 quinoline-5N-oxide.

Part D

1-(2-Methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-5N-oxide (7.3 g, 0.0303 mol) was
15 dissolved in dichloromethane (250 mL) and benzoyl isocyanate (5.0 g, 0.0306 mol) was dissolved in dichloromethane and added to the stirred solution. The reaction solution warmed spontaneously and refluxed briefly. The solution was then refluxed on the steam
20 bath for 15 min and diluted with hexane until turbid. A crystalline solid formed and was filtered from the mixture, washed with dichloromethane/hexane, and dried. A yield of 8.1 g of colorless crystalline solid was obtained. A second crop of 1.4 g was obtained from the filtrate. A combined yield of 9.5 g of N-benzoyl-1(2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amine (91.1%) was obtained. Melting point 193°C-196°C.

<u> 2</u>	Analysis	Calc'd	Found
30	С	73.23%	%C: 73.29
	Н	5.85%	%H: 5.8
	N	16.27%	%N: 16.3

Part E

N-Benzoyl-1-(2-methylpropyl)-1Himidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amine (5.0 g, 0.0145 mol) and
sodium methoxide (10 drops of a 25% by weight solution
in methanol) were mixed in methanol (50 mL) and the

mixture was heated at reflux for 75 minutes. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, and a solid formed. The solid was filtered from the mixture, washed sequentially with water and methanol, and dried.

5 A crude yield of colorless product of 3.3 g (94.3%) was obtained. Spectral properties of the product corresponded to those of an authentic sample.

EXAMPLE 2

4-Amino-1-(2-methylpropyl)α-phenyl-1Himidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methanol

Part A

3-Amino-4-(2-methylpropylamino)quinoline (43.5 g; 0.20 mole) and 300 mL of formic acid were combined and heated on a steam bath for several hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum, diluted with water, basified with ammonium hydroxide then extracted twice with ether. The ether extracts were treated with activated charcoal then combined for a total volume of 1200 mL. The volume was reduced to 500 mL, cooled, then filtered to provide 31.1 g of a light green crystalline solid 1-(2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline.

1-(2-Methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline
(4 g; 0.017 mole) was dissolved in 50 mL of
tetrahydrofuran then cooled to -78°C. A 7.75 mL
portion of n-butyl lithium (2.5 M in hexanes) was added
dropwise to the cooled solution. At 15 minutes post
30 addition, benzaldehyde (2.7 mL; 0.027 mole) was added
and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slightly.
The reaction was quenched with water then diluted with
ethyl ether. The ether was separated, dried with
magnesium sulfate then concentrated under vacuum. The
resulting residue was purified by silica gel
chromatography using 5% methanol in methylene chloride
as the eluent to give an oily yellow solid. This

material was recrystallized from methylene
chloride/hexane to provide 1-(2-Methylpropyl)-α-phenyl1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methanol as a white
crystalline solid, m.p. 160-166°C. Analysis: Calc'd:
5 C, 76.1; H, 6.4; N, 12.7; Found: C, 75.9; H, 6.3; N,
12.7.

Part B

1-(2-Methylpropyl)-α-phenyl-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]10 quinoline-2-methanol (3 g; 9 mmole) was dissolved in 50 mL of methylene chloride then combined with acetic anhydride (1.3 mL; 13.5 mmole) and triethylamine (1.6 mL; 11.8 mole) and stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with
15 methylene chloride, washed sequentially with water and saturated sodium bicarbonate solution, dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (50% ethyl acetate in methylene chloride
20 as eluent) to provide 1-(2-methylpropyl)-α-phenyl-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methyl acetate as a white solid. The structure was confirmed by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

25 Part C

1-(2-Methylpropyl)-α-phenyl-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methyl acetate (3 g; 8 mmole) was dissolved
in 50 mL of ethyl acetate then combined with peracetic
acid (2.2 g; 8.8 mmole) and heated at reflux for about
30 an hour. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool and
then was stirred at room temperature for several days.
The resulting precipitate was collected, rinsed with
ethyl acetate and dried to provide 2.6 g of
2-(α-acetoxybenzyl)-1-(2-methylpropyl)-1H35 imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline 5N oxide as a solid. The
structure was confirmed by nuclear magnetic resonance
spectroscopy.

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Part D

 $2-(\alpha-Acetoxybenzyl)-1-(2-methylpropyl)-1H$ imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline 5N oxide (2.6 g; 6.7 mmole) was dissolved in about 40 mL of methylene chloride, 5 combined with benzoyl isocyanate (1.2 g; 7.3 mmole) and heated at reflux for about one hour. The reaction mixture was diluted with methylene chloride, washed with water, dried over magnesium sulfate and The residue was taken up in concentrated under vacuum. 10 methanol, combined with a catalytic amount of 25% sodium methoxide in methanol, and heated at reflux for The reaction product was purified by several hours. silica gel chromatography using 2-5% methanol in methylene chloride then recrystallized from ethyl 15 acetate-hexane. The recrystallized material was co-evaporated twice with methylene chloride to provide about 0.5 g of 4-amino-1-(2-methylpropyl)- α -phenyl-1Himidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methanol as a solid, m.p. 125-140°C. Analysis: Calc'd: C, 72.8; H, 6.4; N, 20 16.2; Found: C, 71.9; H, 5.6; N, 15.6.

EXAMPLE 3

4-Amino-α-(4-chlorophenyl)-125 (2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methanol

Part A

Using the method of Example 2, Part A, 2.5 g of 1-(2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline was reacted with 4-chlorobenzaldehyde to provide 3.1 g of α -(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo-[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methanol as a yellow solid. The structure was confirmed by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

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Part B

Using the method of Example 2, Part B, 2.6 g (7.1 mmole) of α -(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazo-

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[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methanol was reacted with acetic
anhydride to provide α-(4-chlorophenyl)-1(2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methyl
acetate as a thick oil. The structure was confirmed by
nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Part C

Using the method of Example 2, Part C, 2.9 g (7.1 mmole) of α-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(2-methylpropyl)

10 -1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methyl acetate was oxidized with peracetic acid to provide 2-(α-acetoxy-4-chlorobenzyl)-1-(2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]-quinoline 5N oxide as an oil.

15 Part D

Using the method of Example 2, Part D, 3.3 g (7.8 mmole) of 2-(α-acetoxy-4-chlorobenzyl)-1- (2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline 5N oxide was reacted with benzoyl isocyanate then hydrolyzed to 20 provide 0.8 g of 4-amino-α-(4-chlorophenyl)-1- (2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline-2-methanol as a solid, m.p. 140-145°C. Analysis: Calculated: C, 66.2; H, 5.6; N, 14.7; Found: C, 65.6; H, 5.5; N, 14.4.

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What Is Claimed Is:

1. A process for preparing a 1H-imidazo-[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amine, comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline 5N-oxide having no functional groups other than the 5N-oxide that are reactive to organic isocyanates;

(ii) reacting the 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline 5N-oxide from step (i) with an organic isocyanate of 10 the formula R_i-X-NCO, wherein R_i is an organic group substantially inert to quinoline N-oxides and X is a hydrolytically active functional group, to afford a 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline having a 4-substituent of the formula R_i-X-NH-;

(iii) hydrolysing the product of step (ii) to afford a 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinolin-4-amine; and

(iv) isolating the product of step (iii) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salt thereof.

2. A process according to Claim 1 for preparing a compound of Formula I:

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wherein

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of: straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl

containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten 5 carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about 10 six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to about four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety 15 contains one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy, and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl 20 or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen, with the proviso that when 25 said benzene ring is substituted by two of said moieties, then the moieties together contain no more than six carbon atoms;

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; the benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and

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wherein R, and Rb are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, phenyl, and substituted phenyl wherein the substituent is selected from the group 10 consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen; and Z is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy containing one to about four carbon atoms, alkylamido wherein the alkyl group contains one to about four 15 carbon atoms, amino, substituted amino wherein the substituent is alkyl or hydroxyalkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, azido, chloro, hydroxy, 1-morpholino, 1-pyrrolidino, and thioalkyl of one to about four carbon atoms;

R is selected from the group consisting of lower alkoxy, halogen, and lower alkyl, and n is zero or one, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, which process comprises the steps of:

(i) providing a compound of Formula II

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wherein R, n, and R_2 are as defined above with the 35 proviso that Z in R_2 is other than amino, substituted amino, or hydroxy, and R_5 is selected from the group consisting of: straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms and

substituted straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms 5 and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight 10 chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted 15 by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to about four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is 20 alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or aroyloxy, and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or 25 two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen, with the proviso that when said benzene ring is substituted by two of said moieties, then the moieties 30 together contain no more than six carbon atoms; (ii) reacting the compound of Formula II

(ii) reacting the compound of Formula II with an isocyanate of the formula R_i-X-NCO wherein X is a hydrolytically active functional group and R_i is an organic group substantially inert to quinoline N-oxides to afford a compound of Formula III

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wherein X, R_i , R, R_2 , R_5 , and n are as defined above with the proviso that Z in R_2 is other than amino, substituted amino, and hydroxyl; and

(iii) hydrolysing the product of step (ii) to
15 provide a compound of Formula I;

(iv) optionally converting or further elaborating the group Z in R_2 ; and

(v) isolating the compound of Formula I from step (iv) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid 20 addition salt therof.

3. A process according to Claim 2, wherein \boldsymbol{R}_i is alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, or a combination thereof.

25 4. A process according to Claim 2, wherein X is -C-.

30 5. A process according to Claim 3, wherein X is -C-.

6. A process according to Claim 1 wherein the compound is 1-(2-methylpropyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]-quinolin-4-amine.

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A process for preparing a compound of Formula I:

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wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of: straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms and 15 substituted straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon 20 atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about 25 ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing 30 one to about four carbon atoms; hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to about four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy 35 of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy, and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl or phenyl substituent being optionally

substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen, with the proviso that when said benzene ring is substituted by two of said moieties, then the moieties together contain no more than six carbon atoms;

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; the benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl,

15 lower alkoxy, halogen, and



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wherein R, and Rb are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, phenyl, and substituted phenyl wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen; and Z is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy containing one to about four carbon atoms, alkylamido wherein the alkyl group contains one to about four carbon atoms, amino, substituted amino wherein the substituent is alkyl or hydroxyalkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, azido, chloro, hydroxy, 1-morpholino, 1-pyrrolidino, and thioalkyl of one to about four carbon atoms;

R is selected from the group consisting of lower alkoxy, halogen, and lower alkyl, and n is zero or one, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, which process comprises the steps of:

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(i) providing a compound of Formula III

wherein X is a hydrolytically active functional group, R; is an organic group substantially inert to quinoline 15 N-oxides, R, R2, and n are as defined above with the proviso that Z in R2 is other than amino, substituted amino, and hydroxyl, and Rs is selected from the group consisting of: straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms and 20 substituted straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon 25 atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about 30 ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing 35 one to about four carbon atoms; alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to about four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is

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alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or aroyloxy, and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen, with the proviso that when said benzene ring is substituted by two of said moieties, then the moieties together contain no more than six carbon atoms; and

- (ii) hydrolysing the compound of Formula III to provide a compound of Formula I;
- (iii) optionally converting or further 15 elaborating the group Z in $R_2;\ \mbox{and}$
 - (iv) isolating the compound of Formula I from step (iii) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.
- 8. A process for preparing a

 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline having a 4-substituent of
 the formula R_i-X-NH-, wherein R_i is an organic group
 substantially inert to quinoline N-oxides, and X is a
 hydrolytically active functional group, comprising the
 steps of:
 - (i) providing a 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline 5N-oxide having no functional groups other than the 5N-oxide that are reactive to organic isocyanates; and
- (ii) reacting the compound from step (i) with a compound of the formula $R_i\text{-}X\text{-}NCO$, wherein R_i and X are as defined above.
 - 9. A process according to Claim 8 for preparing a compound of the formula

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wherein

R, is selected from the group consisting of: straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one 15 to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl 20 containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched 25 chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or 30 branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to about four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy 35 of two to about four carbon atoms or aroyloxy, and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being optionally

substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen, with the proviso that when said benzene ring is substituted by two of said moieties, then the moieties together contain no more than six carbon atoms;

R₆ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; the benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and

 R_a

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wherein R, and R, are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, phenyl, and substituted phenyl wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen; and G is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy containing one to about four carbon atoms, alkylamido wherein the alkyl group contains one to about four carbon atoms, azido, chloro, 1-morpholino, 1-pyrrolidino, and thioalkyl of one to about four carbon atoms;

R is selected from the group consisting of lower alkoxy, halogen, and lower alkyl, and n is zero or one;

X is a hydrolytically active functional group; and

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 $R_{\rm i}$ is an organic group substantially inert to quinoline N-oxides, comprising the steps of

(i) providing a compound of Formula II

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wherein R, n, R_5 , and R_6 are as defined above;

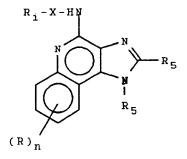
(ii) reacting the compound of Formula II with an isocyanate of the formula R_i -X-NCO wherein X is a hydrolytically active functional group and R_i is an organic group substantially inert to quinoline

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N-oxides.

10. A compound of the formula

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wherein X is a hydrolytically active functional group, R_{i} is an organic group substantially inert to quinoline N-oxides, and wherein

R₅ is selected from the group consisting of: 35 straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected

from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing 5. one to about four carbon atoms; straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to about ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group 10 consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to about six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about four carbon atoms; alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety 15 contains one to about four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or aroyloxy, and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; 20 benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one 25 to about four carbon atoms, and halogen, with the proviso that when said benzene ring is substituted by two of said moieties, then the moieties together contain no more than six carbon atoms;

R₆ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; the benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl, or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and

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wherein R, and R, are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, phenyl, and substituted phenyl wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms, and halogen; and G is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy containing one to about four carbon atoms, alkylamido wherein the alkyl group contains one to about four carbon atoms, azido, chloro, 1-morpholino, 1-pyrrolidino, and thioalkyl of one to about four carbon atoms;

R is selected from the group consisting of lower alkoxy, halogen, and lower alkyl; and n is zero or one.

11. A compound according to Claim 10, wherein R is alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, or a combination thereof.

12. A compound according to Claim 10, wherein

25 X is -C-.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 92/01212

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	nternational Patent 5 CO7D471/	Classification (IPC) or to both National O4; //(CO7D471/	Classification and IPC 04, 235:00, 221:00)	
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		Minimum Docu	mentation Searched?	
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Int.Cl.	5	C07D		
		Documentation Searched off to the Extent that such Documen	ner than Minimum Documentation its are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸	
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III. DOCUME		D TO BE RELEVANT		Polymon to Claim No II
Category ^o	Citation of D	ocument, 11 with indication, where appro	opriate, of the relevant passages 12	Relevant to Claim No.13
A	see pag	389 302 (RIKER) 26 Se e 4, scheme I 29624, cited by the a 		1
"A" docuz	ategories of cited d	meral state of the art which is not	"T" later document published after the internor priority date and not in conflict with the cited to understand the principle or theory	he application but
considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "I" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the same patent ("A" document member of the same patent ("A" document is combined to involve an in				coasidered to imed invention tive step when the other such docu- o a person skilled
IV. CERTIFI	CATION			
Date of the A		the International Search JULY 1992	Date of Mailing of this International Sea	
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ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. US 9201212 58375

This armex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information. 07/07/92

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	I	etent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A-0389302	26-09-90	US-A- AU-A- CA-A- JP-A- US-A-	4929624 5142690 2012226 3027381 5037986	29-05-90 27-09-90 23-09-90 05-02-91 06-08-91
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